

S-60
Schoolridge Farm
Upper Fairmount vicinity
private

c. 1800

Schoolridge farm derives its significance from its architecture, as well as from its associations with Arthur R. Beverly-Giddings, who authored two books while in residence on the farm. Architecturally, the two-story Flemish bond side hall/double pile house is a fine example of the Federal period plantation houses in Somerset County. The well-built brick house stands on the first appreciable rise in terrain from the marshes of the Ann^emessex River. Both the exterior and interior retain ninety per cent of the original c. 1800 architectural fabric. The mantels, doors, chair rail, and stair are well-executed Federal period forms.

With its location along the meandering Annemessex River, Schoolridge farm offered a romantic setting for two novels which were authored by the owner, Arthur R. Beverly-Giddings. River of Roques was published in 1948, and the The Rival Shores followed in 1954.

The original survey of "School House Ridge" was drawn in 1753 for Richard Waters, who sold the ninety-eight acres two years later to shipwright Joshua Hall for five shillings (B/117). Joshua Hall owned the property for thirty years and then sold the tract to Isaac Hall, eldest son of Charles Hall on April 12, 1785 (H/17). The following April brought a third transfer from Isaac Hall to Henry Miles. The deed identifies the property as "Halls Choice" in addition to other tracts of land called "School House Ridge," also part of a tract of marshland called "Hall's Hammock" and "Addition to Hall's Hammock."

In 1798, Henry Miles of Great Annemessex was assessed for,

Part of 3 tracts of land called Halls Choice, part of School House Ridge, 165 acres; part of Halls Hammock, 50 acres; addition to Halls Hammock, addition to School House Ridge, 43 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres; in the whole 258 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres on which is 1 dwelling house built of wood,

37 feet by 18 feet one story high; 1 kitchen, 20 by 18 feet; 1 milk house, 12 by 9 feet; 1 barn 32 by 20, the above house very old and rotten.

The last line in the assessment suggests that Henry Miles occupied the old Hall family house until the turn of the nineteenth century and then replaced the crumbling structure with a new two-story Flemish bond brick house. Henry Miles lived to enjoy his new house until his death around 1816. He died intestate, so his property entered Somerset County's Circuit Court. On June 2, 1819, "School House Ridge," then 176 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres, was sold to Daniel Ballard for \$2,007 (JD 5/12). However, Daniel Ballard never lived on "School House Ridge," for his "home farm" was located on Back Creek near present-day Manokin. Daniel Ballard clearly stated in his will, proved April 10, 1847, that his son, Thomas Emory Ballard, should inherit, "all my farm lying on the eastward and southward side of the County road leading down Potato Neck and which formerly belonged to Henry Miles" (JP5/136). Thomas E. Ballard and his first wife, Kitty, as well as ~~their~~^{their} children, Elizabeth and Thomas, are listed in the 1850 Somerset County census. Thomas E. Ballard's farm was valued at \$4,000. Kitty died in 1856, and Thomas married Rosina Turpin the following year. At ~~his~~^{Thomas Emory's} death in 1879, "School House Ridge" passed to his son Robert T. Ballard (SCL 5/495). Twenty-four years later the property was transferred to S. Cooper Tyler, who held onto the farm until 1933 (FED 34/4). His daughters, A. Louise Tyler and Rose E. Whittington, inherited the property and finally sold their interests to Arthur and Doris Beverly-Giddings on February 8, 1946 (BLB 135/314). "Schoolridge Farm" was sold to the current owners in 1971 (260/200).

United States Department of the Interior
 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
 Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

1. Name

historic Schoolridge Farm; School House Ridge

and or common Schoolridge Farm (preferred)

2. Location

street & number Maryland Route 361 n/a not for publication

city, town Upper Fairmount ☒ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland code 24 county Somerset code 039

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Donald R. McClelland

street & number 2906 N Street, N. W.

city, town Washington ☐ vicinity of state D. C.

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset County Clerk of Court

street & number Somerset County Courthouse

city, town Princess Anne state Maryland 21853

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust
Historic Sites Inventory

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1967

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one
excellent	deteriorated	unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	moved date <u>n/a</u>
fair	unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Number of Resources

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>3</u>	<u>3</u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>4</u>	<u>3</u> Total

Number of previously listed
National Register properties
included in this nomination: 0

Original and historic functions
and uses: agricultural, residential

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Schoolridge Farm is located on a slight rise above the Annesmessex River marshes near Upper Fairmount in Somerset County, Maryland. Built by prominent land owner Henry Miles around 1800-1815, the house is a two-story two-bay side hall/double pile brick house which rests on a partially excavated cellar and is covered by a steeply pitched wood shingle roof. The Flemish bond brick walls have a rare banding of light and dark brick; this is especially evident on the east gable end. The first floor is lighted by 12/12 sash while the second floor has 12/8 sash windows. A six-panel door topped by an arched transom opens into a side hall with quarter-turn stair. Two unequal-sized rooms are located to the right of the hall and heated by corner hearths. Each room is fitted with Federal period mantels, chair rail and baseboards. The second floor is divided in the same manner and finished in a simpler way. The attic stair is enclosed. Extending to the rear is a single story late 19th-century frame kitchen. Attached to the west gable end is a modern 1½ story three-bay frame addition. The yard immediately east of the house is enclosed with a fence and contains a 19th-century frame smoke house, modern utility building and a screened-in gazebo. The first two buildings have a simple gable roof and a pyramidal roof covers the gazebo. Standing farther east is a gambrel-roofed barn. The Ballard family cemetery is located due south of the house and is surrounded by an ankle-high fence. A small long outbuilding standing on the south side of the small pond was moved to the farm.

For General Description, see Continuation Sheet No. 1

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National Park Service

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Continuation sheet Schoolridge Farm
Somerset County, Maryland Item number 7 Page 1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Schoolridge Farm is located on the south side of MD 361 and west of Upper Fairmount, Somerset County, MD. Branches of Hall Creek, a tributary of the Big Annesmessex River, border the 92-acre farm. Facing south, the c. 1800-1815 two-story, two-bay side hall/double pile brick house rests on a partially excavated brick cellar. The Flemish bond brick walls are covered by a steeply pitched wood shingle roof. Extending to the rear (north) is a single story frame kitchen wing. To the west is a modern 1½-story three-bay frame addition.

Accompanying the house is a gambrel roofed frame barn and a Ballard family cemetery. The yard surrounding the house contains mature shade trees and cedars.

The south (main) facade is divided into two bays with an entrance in the west (left) bay. A semi-circular transom is divided by radiating muntins. The six-panel front door is framed by a simple beaded surround. The adjacent bay has a 12/12 sash window topped by a stuccoed jack arch. The sills are concrete. Covering the first floor is a hip-roofed screened-in porch. Two 12/8 sash windows light the second floor and are also topped by jack arches. The boxed cornice stretches across at the base of the roof with a crown molding and dentiled bed molding.

The east gable end is symmetrically arranged with 12/12 sash on the first floor, 12/8 sash on the second floor and two six-pane windows to light the attic. A gable end chimney rises out of the east wall and is finished with a corbelled cap. A small gabled entrance into the cellar is located below the southern first floor window. An unusual aspect of this gable end involves the intentional banding of darker and lighter brick; this is especially evident within the gable above the second floor windows.

The north side is partially covered by the single-story frame kitchen wing which has an interior end brick chimney. The walls are sheathed with weatherboards and covered by an asphalt tile roof. Two 12/8 window sash pierce the second floor of the brick house.

The west end is largely covered by the modern 1½-story frame addition which rests on a brick foundation and is covered by a medium sloped wood shingle roof. Two 6/6 sash dormers light the second floor, while the front wall surface is divided into three bays, each with a 6/6 sash window. The remaining sides of the wing are finished in the same manner.

The gable end of the brick house has one 12/12 sash on the first floor and two 12/8 sash windows on the second floor. The attic story is lighted by two six-pane windows. A small window with a header arch lights the cellar.

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National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormContinuation sheet Schoolridge Farm
Somerset County, Maryland Item number 7 Page 2GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The side hall contains a quarter-turn flight of stairs to the second floor. A slender, turned newel post and three rectangular balusters to each tread support a simple handrail. The stair stringer is plain and the area below is plastered. A four-panel door opens into the closet below the stair. Window and door architraves have three-part moldings with a combination of small ovolos and cavettos. The arched entrance surround has a scrolled keystone which interrupts the header molding. The transom soffit is paneled. Six-panel doors open into the two adjacent rooms, each heated by a corner hearth. In addition the back portion of the hall is partitioned into a small room. The front room or parlor is trimmed with early 19th-century baseboard and chair rail. The Federal period mantel features a five-part frieze with paneled frieze blocks. Stretching below the frieze is a row of intricate gougework: two short vertical gouges alternate with three short horizontal gouges. A similar row stretches beneath the broken mantel shelf.

The study, slightly smaller than the parlor, is finished with similar molding profiles. The mantel follows along the same format but does not have the gougework.

The second floor is divided into four rooms. The open string stair rises with a quarter turn to the spacious second floor hall. The stair to the attic aside from four exposed steps, is enclosed behind a flat six-panel door. A small four-panel door allows for access under the stair.

The remaining space is divided into three rooms. The northwest room was converted to a bathroom while the other two rooms serve as bedrooms. A corner hearth is located in the northeast room. The molded hearth surround supports a molded mantel shelf. The walls are trimmed with molded baseboard and chair rail.

The attic has been finished and divided into two rooms.

The single-story kitchen wing has been refitted with modern appliances and kitchen cabinets. The rough sawn beams have been exposed. A four-panel door opens into a pantry.

The modern gable end addition is divided into two rooms. An open stair hall is separated from a large living room.

Standing immediately east of the house is a small walled garden. The southeast corner of the garden has a modern pyramidal-roofed screen gazebo. Two small frame outbuildings, including an early 19th-century smoke house and a modern frame storage building, stand along the north wall. East of the house is a gambrel roofed frame barn and to the south is the Ballard family cemetery. An ankle-high fence encloses a dozen 19th-century markers. A lone cedar rises from the cemetery plot. On the south side of the small pond is a small log outbuilding that was moved to the property.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric	community planning	landscape architecture	religion
1400-1499	archeology-historic	conservation	law	science
1500-1599	agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	education	military	social/
1700-1799	art	engineering	music	humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	commerce	exploration/settlement	philosophy	theater
1900-	communications	industry	politics/government	transportation
		invention		other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criteria: C
 Applicable Exceptions: none
 Level of Significance for Evaluation: local

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

Schoolridge Farm derives its significance from its architecture. The two-story, Flemish bond brick, side hall/double pile house is a fine example of the Federal period plantation houses found in Somerset County. The substantial brick house stands on the first appreciable rise in terrain above the marshes of the Annemessex River. Both the exterior and interior retain most of the original c. 1800 architectural fabric. The mantels, doors, chair rail and stair are well-executed Federal period forms.

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Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet Schoolridge Farm
Somerset County, Maryland Item number 8 Page 3

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The original survey of "School House Ridge" was drawn in 1753 for Richard Waters, who sold the ninety-eight acres two years later to shipwright, Joshua Hall, for five shillings.¹ Joshua Hall owned the property for thirty years and then sold the tract to Isaac Hall, eldest son of Charles Hall on 12 April 1785.² The following April brought a third transfer from Isaac Hall to Henry Miles. This deed identifies the property as "Halls Choice" in addition to another tract of land called "School House Ridge" and also part of a tract of marshland called "Hall's Hammock" and a tract called "Addition to Halls Hammock." According to Harry Benson's "Somerset County Maps of Land Surveys and Resurveys," "Halls Choice" and "School House Ridge" are neighboring properties, whereas Hall's Hammock is a separate parcel located along the shoreline of Halls Creek.⁴

In 1798, Henry Miles of Great Annemessex Hundred was assessed for:

Part of 3 tracts of land called Halls Choice, part of School House Ridge, 165 acres; part of Halls Hammock, 50 acres; addition to Halls Hammock, addition to School House Ridge, 43½ acres; in the whole 258½ acres on which is 1 dwelling house built of wood, 37 feet by 18 feet one storey high; 1 kitchen, 20 by 18 feet; 1 milk house, 12 by 9 feet; 1 barn 32 by 20, the above house very old and rotten.⁵

This last line suggests that Henry Miles occupied the old Hall family house until the turn of the 19th century and then replaced the crumbling structure with a new two-story Flemish Bond brick house. Henry Miles lived to enjoy his new house until his death around 1816. He died intestate, so his property entered Somerset County's Circuit Court. On 2 June 1819, "School House Ridge," then 176½ acres, was sold to Daniel Ballard for \$2,007.⁶ Daniel Ballard never lived on "School House Ridge" for his "home farm" was located on Back Creek near present-day Manokin. Daniel Ballard clearly stated in his will, proved on 10 April 1847, that his son, Thomas Emory Ballard, should inherit "all my farm lying on the eastward and southward side of the County road leading down Potato Neck and which formerly belonged to Henry Miles.⁷ Thomas E. Ballard and his first wife, Kitty, as well as his children, Elizabeth and Thomas L., are listed in the 1850 Somerset County census. Thomas E. Ballard's farm was valued at \$4,000.⁸ Kitty died in 1856 and Thomas married Rosina Turpin the following year.⁹ At his death in 1879, "School House Ridge" passed to his son, Robert T. Ballard.¹⁰ Twenty-four years later the property was transferred to S. Cooper Tyler, who held onto the farm until 1933.¹¹ His daughters, A. Louise Tyler and Rose E. Whittington, inherited the property and finally sold their interests to Arthur and Doris Beverly-Giddings on 8 February 1946.¹² During their ownership of "Schoolridge Farm" Arthur Beverly-Giddings authored two romantic novels, The Rival Shores and River of Rogues. "Schoolridge Farm" and Somerset County were featured as the main settings in both books. The present owners acquired the 92-acre farm in 1971.¹³

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Continuation sheet Schoolridge Farm Item number 8 and 9 Page 4
Somerset County, Maryland

Footnotes

- ¹ Somerset County Land Records B/117, Somerset County Courthouse.
- ² Somerset County Land Records H/17, Somerset County Courthouse.
- ³ Somerset County Land Records, H/137, Somerset County Courthouse.
- ⁴ Somerset County, Maryland Land Surveys and Resurveys, compiled by Harry L. Benson, 1942.
- ⁵ 1798 Direct Tax Assessment, Great Annemessex Hundred, Henry Miles.
- ⁶ Somerset County Land Records, L O 5/12, Somerset County Courthouse.
- ⁷ Somerset County Will Book, JP 5/136, Somerset County Register of Wills, Somerset County Courthouse.
- ⁸ 1850 Somerset County Census, compiled by Ruth T. Dryden, p. 11.
- ⁹ Somerset County Marriage Records, Somerset County Courthouse.
- ¹⁰ Somerset Register of Wills, S.C.L. S/495-496, June 7, 1879.
- ¹¹ Somerset County Register of Wills, F.E.D., 34/4, February 18, 1933.
- ¹² Somerset County Land Records, B.L.B. 135/314, Somerset County Courthouse.
- ¹³ Somerset County Land Records, 260/200, Somerset County Courthouse.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Benson, Harry L, Somerset County, Maryland. Land Surveys and Resurveys, 1942
Dryden, Ruth T., 1850 Somerset County Census.
1798 Federal Direct Tax Assessment, Great Annemessex Hundred, Particular List
of Dwelling Houses, Henry Miles.
Somerset County Land Records, various volumes, Somerset County Courthouse.
Somerset County Marriage Records, Somerset County Courthouse
Somerset Count Wills, various volumes, Somerset County Courthouse.

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Schoolridge Farm
Continuation sheet Somerset County, Maryland

Item number

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point in the field north of the entrance lane and northwest of the house and heading due south for 800 feet across said entrance lane to a point in the field southwest of the house, thence in an easterly direction across the low lands south of the pond for 800 feet to a point in the field southeast of the house, thence due north for 800 feet on the east side of the barn to a point in the north field, thence in a westerly direction for the remaining 800 feet to the place of beginning containing 14.9 acres more or less.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The fifteen acres which accompany this nomination comprise the immediate acreage surrounding the house. This property includes the adjacent outbuildings, the barn and the Ballard family cemetery. The boundary lines form a rectangle around these elements, excluding the surrounding fields and marshland which offer no additional contribution to the significance of the resource.

9. Major Bibliographical References

S-60

See Continuation Sheet No. 4

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 14.9 acresQuadrangle name Marion, MDQuadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

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Zone Easting NorthingB

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Zone Easting NorthingC

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet No. 5

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state n/a code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Touart, Architectural Historianorganization Somerset County Historical Trust date 3/4/84street & number 424 North Somerset Avenue telephone 651-1094city or town Princess Anne state Maryland 21853

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register


Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

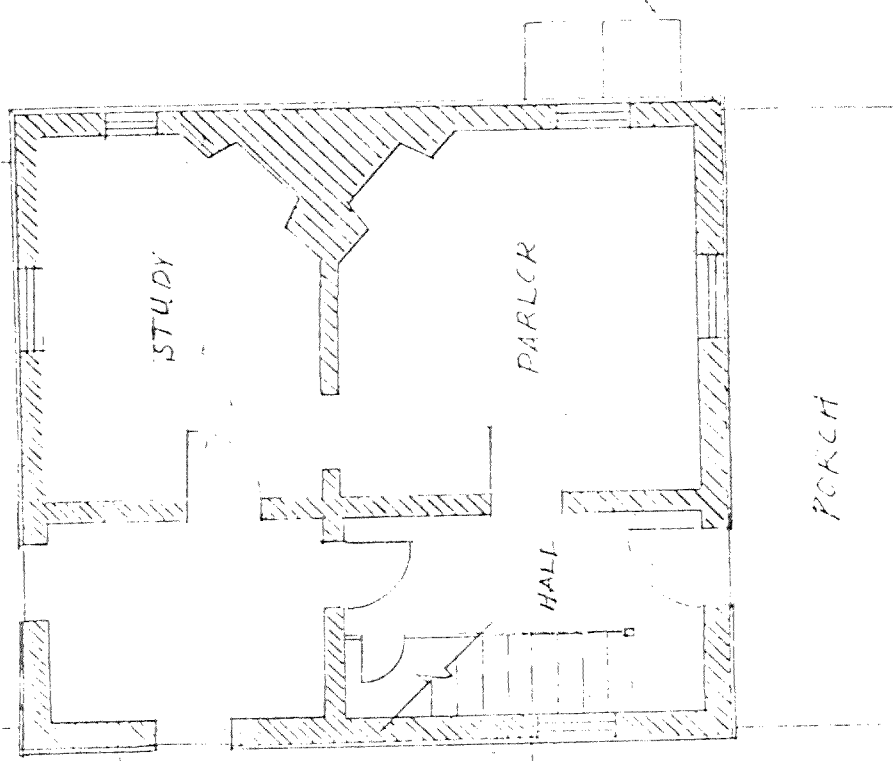
2600 609204

Form 10-445
(5/62)

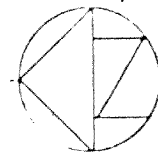
1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Somerset County TOWN Fairmount VICINITY STREET NO. ORIGINAL OWNER Major William Walker ORIGINAL USE Dwelling PRESENT OWNER Mr. A.R.Bev. Giddings PRESENT USE Dwelling WALL CONSTRUCTION Flemish Bond Brick NO. OF STORIES 2 1/2		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY 2. NAME Schoolridge Farm S-60 DATE OR PERIOD 1799 STYLE Late Georgian ARCHITECT BUILDER 3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC no <p>This is a fine small late Georgian house, very similar in plan to Water's River, not far down the same road. The house is a perfect square. It is 2 bays wide and 2 bays deep, with an A-roof. The first floor windows are 12/12, those on the second floor are 12/8. They all contain old bubbly glass. The door occupies the left bay on the front of the houses. It has a lovely fanlight with a carved frame with a pendant bracket. There is one chimney built into the right end wall. Random glazed bricks are used throughout the construction of the house. All the windows have flat arches stuccoed and painted white. To the left of the main house is a 1 1/2 storey frame Greek Revival addition. The windows are 6/6 and all have wooden pedimented cornices. At the rear of the house is a 1 1/2 storey ell with a cat slide roof.</p> <p>In the house all of the original finely carved panelling has been preserved. There are 2 finely carved corner fireplaces on each floor. All the chair rails, doorframes, and floor boards are old. The staircase is simple but elegant. The 2nd storey hall is a perfect square and the staircase to the third floor is panelled and enclosed. The most delicately carved feature of the house is the fanlight with its carved frame and bracket.</p> <p>This is a truly fine well-proportioned house perfect in every detail. There are fine gardens and 2 old outbuildings, both with beaded horizontal siding.</p> <p>This house has a dated brick in the basement telling the year of construction 1799.</p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior excellent			
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional) 		7. PHOTOGRAPH	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER Paul A. Brinkman DATE OF RECORD August 4, 1967	

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

KITCHEN



MODERN ADDITION



$\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'$



S-60

3-1-84 1ET

FAIRBANKS

SCHOOL RIDGE FARM



NARRISON
1972



NARRISON
1972

Schoolridge Farm

S-60

Upper Fairmount vicinity

Somerset Co., Md.

South Elevation

2/85, Paul Touart, Photographer

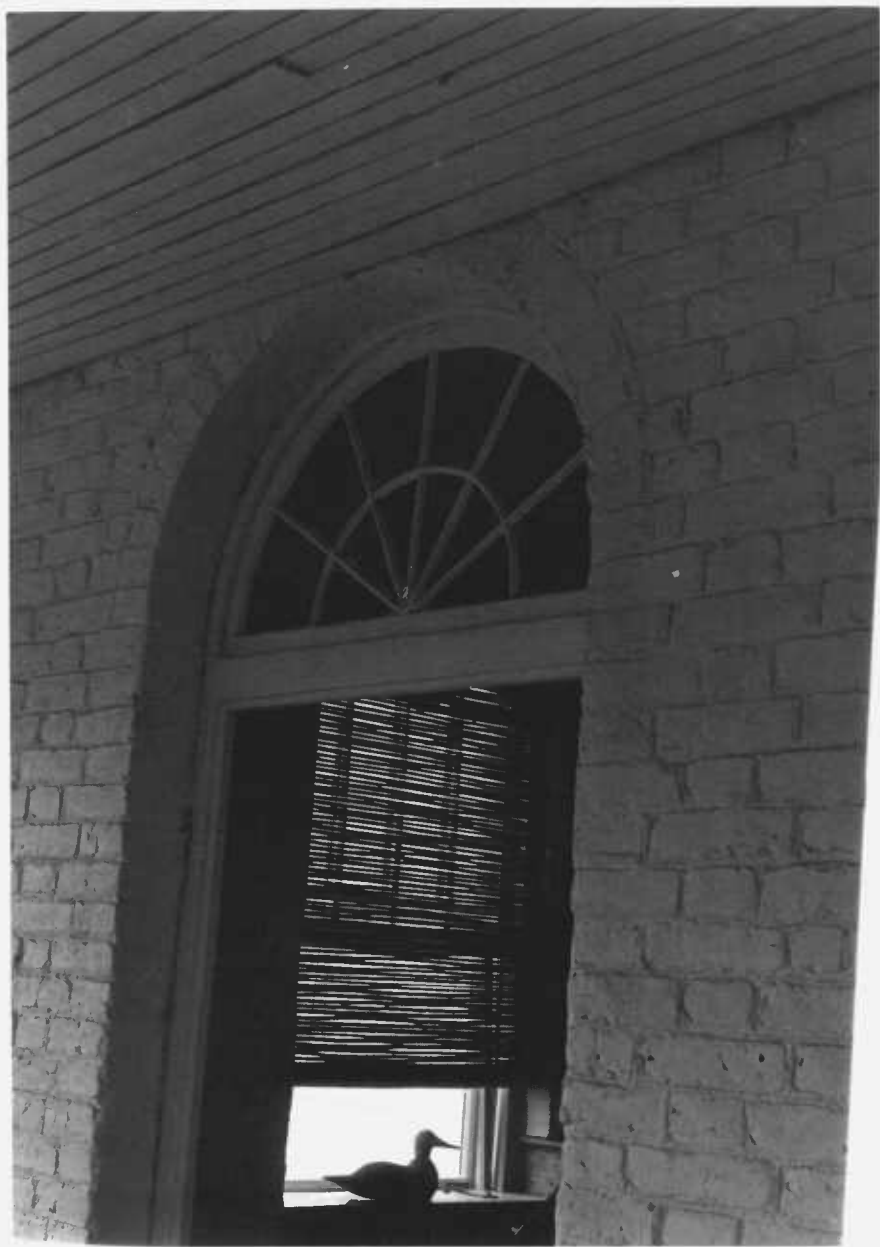
Neg./Md. Historical Trust



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Schoolidge Farm
Somerset



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Schoolridge Farm
Somerset

Interior 2nd floor staircase
to attic